

MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION



Treatment at Montana State Hospital is organized around five primary clinical pathways that collectively are called “Pathways to Recovery.” The purpose of the pathways is to provide meaningful, coordinated treatment for each individual in order to promote recovery and independence to the fullest extent possible. Programs on each treatment unit are developed around a particular treatment pathway. The hospital supplements the treatment available on each unit with a variety of centralized services offered on campus. Centralized services include: basic medical care, dental care, dietitian consultation, pharmacy, recreation therapy, vocational assessment and instruction, pastoral care and group and individual counseling. Individuals are offered a wide variety of recovery-focused services at the Recovery Center and Therapeutic Learning Center. In addition, the hospital offers on-campus group home opportunities and services for individuals who are stable and are preparing for transition back to the community.

A brief description of each program follows:

A and B Units are designed to serve people experiencing symptoms of psychosis, affective disorders and/or maladaptive behaviors which may impair judgment, social functioning, and/or safe and successful ability to reside in a community setting. Integrated treatment is designed to address complex treatment needs with a recovery perspective to enhance skills in healthy patterns of living and improve quality of life. The goal of treatment is stabilization and community re-integration.

D Unit provides services designed for both civil and forensic patients. This unit serves forensic patients who are typically fully adjudicated and have advanced to levels that warrant treatment in this medium security setting. Civil patients served on D Unit are those persons whose behavior and recovery have not been manageable on Units A, B, E or Spratt or persons who have clinically been assessed to need the services on D Unit to facilitate their continuing recovery.

Treatment opportunities focus upon stabilization and assisting patients to understand and manage their symptoms and associated behaviors to promote well-being, safety and recovery.

E Unit provides treatment for people with acute and chronic mental disorders which impair social and independent functioning. Treatment opportunities focus upon helping individuals better understand and manage their symptoms to promote personal growth, while providing opportunities to teach skills on steps toward recovery. Groups and therapeutic activities are designed to provide learning and practice experiences that promote recovery and allow the individual to experience healthy patterns of living and an improved quality of life.

MSH Forensic Mental Health Facility provides services designed for people admitted to Montana State Hospital who have misdemeanor or felony charges pending and are in various stages of adjudication. The unit is also known as the MHS's high security forensic unit. There are three main components to the program:
evaluation of competency and related issues;
treatment to restore competency and fitness to stand trial;
and treatment for individuals found guilty but mentally ill or not guilty by reason of mental illness in criminal proceedings.

This unit also provides psychiatric evaluation and treatment for individuals transferred from facilities operated by the Montana Department of Corrections. In all aspects of programming on this unit, careful consideration is given to public safety and the perspective of victims.

Spratt treatment modalities are designed to enhance the physical, mental and psychological well-being of individuals who have long-term psychiatric disabilities and/or significant physical limitations. Individuals placed in this pathway include those whose mental illness, psychiatric impairment, or cognitive limitations are such that they severely interfere with daily functioning. Significant physical impairments may be present as well. Groups and therapeutic activities are highly individualized and designed to 1) provide a daily schedule that promotes physical, cognitive, emotional and social health; 2) promote each individual's self-respect and quality of life by providing activities that allow for self-expression, personal responsibility and choice.

MSH Mental Health Group Homes provide transitional living for people who are stable and/or preparing for discharge into a community placement. Program focus is on development of independent living, vocational, self-care skills and social adjustment from institutional care. The Group Homes function under a philosophy that embraces hope, education, self-advocacy, and personal responsibility.

The Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) is an integral component of treatment offered at the Montana State Hospital. The TLC provides a variety of treatment modalities to help patients achieve specific psychosocial, leisure, educational, and vocational outcomes. This program is recovery based with emphasis on individual strengths, personal goals and interests. TLC offerings are tailored to individual needs and include physical, mental, social, expressive and creative modalities with an emphasis on the development of life skills and the enhancement of each individual's quality of life. Vocational services are offered through the TLC, including employment readiness classes and on-campus work experiences.

The Recovery Center works under the philosophy of hope and resilience. The philosophy of recovery embraces and encourages an individual's own capacity for change. The Recovery Center offers numerous co-occurring and evidenced based group opportunities which may assist individuals in their path to recovery. We believe determination and self-direction are the foundation of recovery as we support individuals to define their own life goals and design their own unique path toward wellness. The various staff in the Recovery Center provides hope,

education, support, and self-advocacy and promotes personal responsibility to those we serve at Montana State Hospital.

The Chapel at Montana State Hospital is a multicultural and interfaith place of worship and meditation. Catholic and Protestant services are held weekly for patients within the chapel as well as religious study groups. Chaplains also hold services on units and visit with patients in the chapel or on in their living area upon request.

Participation in religious, spiritual and cultural offerings is voluntary. Interfaith and cultural offering at the MSH are recovery based and are held to be an integral part of each patient's quality of life.

Cultural Activities and Experiences

MSH has also developed the opportunity for patients to smudge. A Smudging box has been developed and is available upon request through each unit's treatment team. In addition, MSH continues to provide multi-cultural programs to the campus population such as the Teepee Raising, The Butte Folk Dancing Group, The Shamrockers- a Celtic band, and the Silver Bow String Quartet. Community integration trips include participation in the annual NAMI Walk in Helena, NAMI Conference, visits to the Butte American Indian Alliance, the Butte Pow Wow and Shakespeare in the Park.